

Global News Update

Content

1 Editorial	1
2 Team Reports	2
3 Regional Reports	3
4 Facility Visits	4
5 Future WCC Meetings	4

Dear WCC Colleagues and Friends,



With another WCC Annual Meeting concluded in Vancouver, Canada, it gives me great pleasure to report on the success and outcomes of the meeting. The stimulating discussions held throughout the meeting reinforced the positive atmosphere and cooperative nature WCC members continue to foster.

The meeting would not have been so productive without the many participants who traveled from all over the world to attend. I am very grateful for your continued attendance at these important meetings – thank you! The discussions at the meeting highlight the common issues we face and provide a collaborative forum to address them in our respective regions. The face-to-face interaction makes such collaboration possible, as well as all the more fun for attendees.



Guest speaker Patrick Moore, a co-founder and former President of Greenpeace, presented on how misinformation, instead of science, can shape environmental debates. I hope you enjoyed his thought

provoking presentation that challenged conventional ideologies on environmental issues.

A particular thank you is due to the Chlorine Chemistry Division's (CCD) team, especially LeaAnne Mooney, who provided so much behind the scenes support to make this event run smoothly.



You may now find all the meeting materials and minutes posted on our Cl17 Sharepoint site. This newsletter provides the highlights of the meeting in Vancouver, the site visits to Chemtrade and Brenntag, and information about upcoming WCC meetings. Enjoy reading and I look forward to seeing you next year!

Best regards,

Judith

Team Reports

Global Advocacy & Science Team (GAST)

Regarding **mercury issues**, the first Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (COP-1) was held in Geneva from Sept. 24-29. From that conference, there are no major changes to the 2025 mercury cell technology phase-out deadline that includes up to two possible five-year extensions. Members seeking extensions were advised to consult with their respective governments.

WCC continues to provide mercury inventory reports every year to the Global Mercury Partnership, demonstrating WCC's openness and transparency. Going forward, WCC will continue to provide data and best practices, and monitor the direction of the broader Partnership Advisory Group, which may in the future address issues such as supply, storage and waste.

Global News Update

As the EU regulations require a phase out of mercury cell technology by Dec. 2017, it was decided that Clorosur would take the WCC lead on the Minamata Convention. WCC members will stay in close contact with Euro Chlor for “lessons learned” from the accelerated phase-out schedule in the EU and ongoing mercury waste stabilization efforts.

Participants agreed that the need for WCC involvement in the **Stockholm POPs Convention** was declining. It was noted, however, that although there are no current provisions to address POPs-contaminated sites, this could well become an area of interest in the future and warrant monitoring.

Chrysotile asbestos remains a major issue in North and South America. Canada is seeking to ban asbestos; however, the Canadian industry is working to secure an exemption. Brazil’s Supreme Court almost outlawed the mining of chrysotile asbestos but ultimately permitted it. It is an issue that will continue to be monitored. In the U.S., a recently implemented chemical safety law has prioritized asbestos to be evaluated. CCD is working closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure the Agency reaffirms the use of chrysotile asbestos in U.S. chlor-alkali production does not present a risk to human health or the environment.

Opportunities to promote drinking water chlorination in the context of the Post-2015 **UN Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) were discussed. In July, the founder of one of ACC’s safe water partnerships, Haiti-Philanthropy, made a presentation to the annual meeting of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) on the Haitian Chlorine Bank. The “Bank” demonstrates a sustainable model for providing safe, chlorinated drinking water in Haiti, where no formal water infrastructure exists.

Concerns over IUPAC offering a summer course and a book on green chemistry titled “Chemistry beyond Chlorine” were raised. An ad-hoc WCC task force was convened to review the book contents and potentially develop a response by WCC.

The **International DBP Task Force** continues to monitor research on the byproducts of water chlorination. An international study examining trends in national drinking water disinfection practices versus trends in

bladder cancer rates is anticipated to be submitted for publication in Q4 2017. A research study on selective citation bias was presented that illustrated researchers claiming a relationship between swimming and asthma often cite themselves, calling into question the quality of the research.

Contact: Mary Ostrowski
mary_ostroski@americanchemistry.com

Global Safety Team (GST)

A final agenda for the **WCC Safety Seminar** in Moscow, Russia in November was approved. A meeting location for a 2018 WCC Safety Seminar has not been finalized but was discussed.

Incidents of **chlorine releases** in different regions were shared. Most of these related to the transportation or loading of chlorine into transportation vessels. It was highlighted that incidents are often a result of poor/improper training of personnel handling chlorine.

Contact: Frank Reiner
freiner@cl2.com

Communications Committee

The **Cl17 Sharepoint** site subscription will be changed to a lower cost version that eliminates functionalities not being used by WCC members. Members having issues or needing tutorials to operate Cl17 should contact the WCC Secretariat.

News Updates containing stories from around the globe will be uploaded every month. WCC members volunteered to write the News Updates and the WCC Secretariat will contact members when stories are needed for updates. It was noted the topics of the stories could be broadened to discuss the many benefits of chlorine chemistry and how they are topical to regional activities. Once these stories are published, WCC members are encouraged to share them via their social media channels.

The **Global News Update** will be released in Q2 and Q4 and sent in conjunction with the Global Safety Newsletter to WCC members.

Contact: Matthew Kastner
matthew_kastner@americanchemistry.com

Global News Update

Regional Reports

Judith Nordgren gave an overview of the purpose of WCC and its global representation of the chlor-alkali industry. The trust and cooperation fostered between WCC members has made it a credible body with international recognition.

RusChlor (Russia)

Boris Jagud reported on a new electronic monitoring system of freights of liquid chlorine transported in bulk. The new system, which is now being field tested, can continuously monitor and track shipments via sensors that detect location, leakage, and other statistics that are uploaded to an online web application for users to monitor. Additionally, RusChlor has developed a Best Available Technology (BAT) Reference File (BREF) for the Russian chlor-alkali industry that permits electrolysis via mercury cells and asbestos diaphragms, as well as minimizes mercury waste management concerns.

JSIA (Japan)

Takanori Yukawa reported on environment and energy issues in Japan including the Basic Environment Plan, carbon pricing, the Strategic Energy Plan, the Feed-In-Tariff (FIT) Act, renewable energy issues, and a Low Carbon Society plan. Overall, these plans collectively aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase renewable energy production, and make Japan more sustainable. These actions will impact the chlor-alkali industry as it is energy intensive yet also manufactures products that can improve sustainability.

Euro Chlor (Europe)

Dolf van Wijk reported on the looming Dec. 2017 mercury phase-out deadline, and subsequent conversion of leftover mercury to mercury sulfide before permanent disposal. Additionally, reliable and affordable energy use for the industry may prove challenging in the future. European competitiveness is a priority for policy makers and a June 2017 report from the European Council had encouraging conclusions for the chemical industry. Safety became a concern in 2014 prompting Euro Chlor to support safety projects that have shown a reduction in incidents in 2016. Euro Chlor has also created a new communications initiative titled

the “17 Successes,” highlighting how chlorine chemistry contributes to many different careers.

Clorosur (Latin America)

Martim Penna discussed mercury cell technology which accounts for over 20% of the regions chlor-alkali capacity. Asbestos was also discussed as Brazil’s Supreme Court recently ruled to allow the use of asbestos. Meanwhile, state courts and Congress are reviewing asbestos laws but there is no clear outcome of these. Clorosur began a communications campaign called *Cloro na Zika* and *Cloro no aedes* to help control mosquito borne diseases in the region. This campaign has garnered much attention and mosquito borne diseases have been reduced.

CCD (U.S.)

Judith Nordgren reported on chlorine rail tank car regulatory issues and safety measures. Tank cars built before 2009, which comprise 67% of the current U.S. tank car fleet, may be prematurely phased out due to a standard issued by the Association of American Railroads (AAR). The American Chemistry Council has raised concerns as to AAR’s authority to issue the standard. CCD has begun inviting local elected officials to TRANSCAER events that train and prepare first responders across the country on how to manage a transportation incident. The events better educate elected officials on the training program and benefits of chlor-alkali chemistry. CCD continues to monitor and respond to regulatory activity around perchlorate and chloroform in drinking water standards. Asbestos is undergoing a risk evaluation by EPA; CCD is actively engaged with member companies and EPA on the evaluation. CCD continues its communications outreach to students, policy makers, and public health partners. Additionally, CCD has launched a new website and collateral titled the “Element of Surprise.”

CCAIA (China)

Wenlei Zhang reported that caustic and PVC production capacity continues to grow in China. The government has formally agreed to adopt the Minamata Convention on Mercury. It requires that by 2020 mercury consumption be reduced by 50% compared to 2010 and

Global News Update

prohibits the use of mercury for chlor-alkali production per the terms of the Convention.

C4 (Canada)

Julie Vogt reported on the many conferences and trade shows C4 has attended to reach stakeholders including water and public health authorities and associations. Rail safety, chemical management plans, and asbestos were also covered. Although the government has announced a ban on asbestos, the chlorine sector is advocating for an exemption.

AMAI (India)

B.S. Gilra reported on activities in India impacting the chlor-alkali industry. Energy consumption and solar energy production are on the rise, as well as a focus on new infrastructure in India. These collectively could impact demand for chlorine. AMAI continues to participate in seminars and training around the globe focused on membrane cell technology, safety, environmental health, and emergency preparedness. Additionally, GPS technology has been placed in over 500 trucks and tank cars carrying hazardous materials, including chlorine, caustic, and hydrochloric acid, to better monitor movement and improve safety.

Vancouver Chemical Facility Visits

Holding the WCC Annual Meeting in Vancouver provided a great opportunity to visit two chemical facilities in the surrounding area.

The first facility visit was to Chemtrade in North Vancouver. Chemtrade primarily manufactures chlorine, caustic soda, and hydrochloric acid. The facility uses membrane technology in its chlor-alkali production. It has direct access to the Burrard inlet allowing barges to conveniently offload salt used in the chlor-alkali manufacturing process. Also, a rail yard connects to the site providing quick loading of chemical products into tank cars for distribution. A unique feature for guests was seeing the empty buildings where diaphragm cells were once used before the facility converted to membrane technology.

The second site visit was to Brenntag, a chemical

distributor providing tailored chemical solutions to its varied customers across the globe. At this facility guests were able to access the top of the tank cars to view the unloading equipment and valves used to empty the rail cars. Brenntag also demonstrated how it adds value to the chemicals it receives by transforming raw materials, like chlorine gas, into end products, like sodium hypochlorite. The facility houses many different types of chemicals from food ingredients to strong acids and bases, and more. Guests were able to see first-hand the safety measures in place that prevent accidents and reduce damage in the unlikely event of a spill/release.



The WCC Secretariat hopes guests enjoyed the tours at these two facilities. Such visits provide members with invaluable information about chlor-alkali production and uses that cannot be fully appreciated until seen in person. We look forward to arranging such visits in the future in other parts of the globe.

Contact: Judith Nordgren

Judith_nordgren@americanchemistry.com

Future WCC Meetings

- **WCC Management Committee Teleconference** January 23, 2018 at 12:00 PM UTC (7:00 AM EST)
 - **WCC Spring Management Committee Meeting** March 25-26, 2018; Marriott Tampa Waterside, Tampa, Florida, USA (in conjunction with the Chlorine Institute's Annual Meeting)
 - **WCC Management Committee Teleconference** July 24, 2018 at 11:00 AM UTC (7:00 AM EDT)
- WCC Annual Meeting** October 2-4, 2018; The Four Seasons Hotel, Buenos Aires, Argentina ([please note change from the originally scheduled dates of October 2-5](#))

WCC Global News Update Contact: Matthew Kastner, matthew_kastner@americanchemistry.com